

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

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4 Aderhold

5 **RESOLUTION 17-042**

6
7 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING HB
8 177, AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESPONSE TO, AND CONTROL
9 OF, AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES; ESTABLISHING THE AQUATIC
10 INVASIVE SPECIES RESPONSE FUND; AND RELATING TO THE
11 PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT AQUATIC INVASIVE
12 SPECIES.

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14 WHEREAS, HB 177 provides the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) with the
15 statutory authority to swiftly address outbreaks of aquatic invasive species; and

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17 WHEREAS, *Didemnum vexillum* (also known as D. vex and sea vomit), is an example
18 of an aggressive invasive tunicate that is threatening the mariculture industry, commercial
19 fisheries and integrity of the ecosystem in Whiting Harbor near Sitka, Alaska; and

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21 WHEREAS, The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve based in Homer,
22 Alaska, monitors for D. vex and another marine invasive species, the European green crab,
23 with the support of a team of citizen scientists who live throughout Kachemak Bay, which
24 provides the first line of defense against the introduction of marine aquatic invasive species
25 into Kachemak Bay; and

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27 WHEREAS, Marine aquatic invasive species may enter Alaskan waters, including
28 Kachemak Bay, through the exchange of ballast water, on the hulls of ships, attached to the
29 legs of jack up rigs transported across oceans, and by other means; and

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31 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska and local communities such as Homer, are also faced
32 with potential ecological and economic harm from existing and future freshwater and
33 terrestrial invasive plant and animal species; and

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35 WHEREAS, Homer's economy depends on commercial and sport fishing, mariculture,
36 and tourism, and residents depend on the natural environment for their livelihoods, lifestyle,
37 culture, subsistence, and quality of life; and

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39 WHEREAS, All other west coast states and British Columbia have established
40 statewide invasive species coordinating councils focusing on preventing and responding to
41 the spread of invasive species; and

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43 WHEREAS, Numerous state and federal agencies have jurisdiction related to invasive
44 species, and non-governmental organizations such as the University of Alaska Anchorage

45 Center for Conservation Science maintain databases and act as clearinghouses of
46 information related to invasive species; and

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48 WHEREAS, The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council, of which
49 Homer is a member, recommends the formation of a statewide invasive species coordinating
50 council; and

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52 WHEREAS, HB 177 gives the ADF&G the authority to use chemical, biological, or
53 physical methods to deal with aquatic invasive species; and

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55 WHEREAS, As a prevention measure, HB 177 encourages the Alaska Marine Highway
56 System to provide a pamphlet to every passenger educating the public on aquatic invasive
57 species and how to mitigate their spread; and

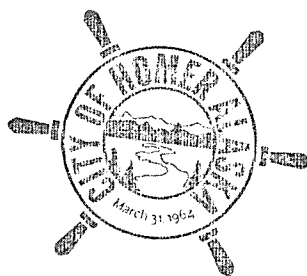
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59 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the City of Homer for the State of Alaska to have
60 appropriate aquatic invasive species education, protection, and response measures in place
61 to protect Alaskan waters from invasive species.

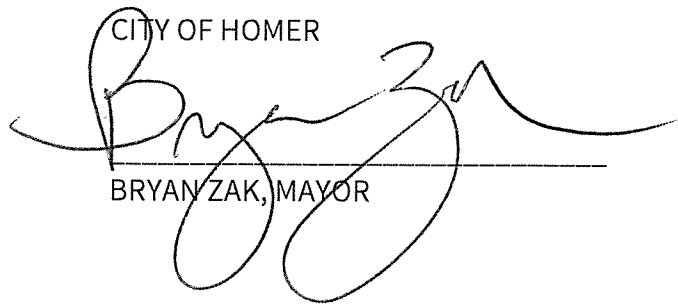
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63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer supports HB 177 relating to
64 the response and control of aquatic invasive species, establishing the aquatic invasive
65 species response fund, and relating to the provision of information about aquatic invasive
66 species.

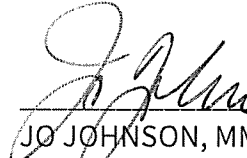
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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer supports the formation of a
69 statewide invasive species coordinating council to coordinate invasive species response
70 efforts statewide.

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72 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council on this 24th day of April, 2017.

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CITY OF HOMER

BRYAN ZAK, MAYOR

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80 ATTEST:
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84 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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86 Fiscal Note: N/A